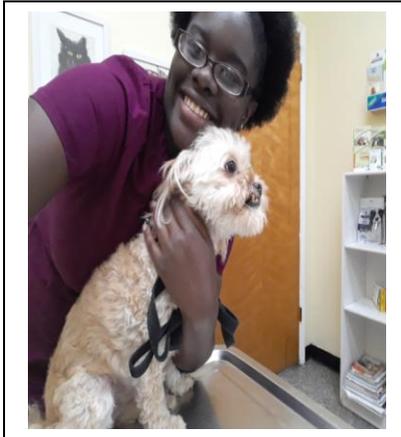


Al'Asia Jenkins

Aspiring Veterinarian



With the career aspiration of being a veterinarian, I completed my veterinary experience at Riverside Animal Hospital. During the experience, I was able to shadow veterinarian technicians and learn about all of the hard work that is done even before the doctor examines the animal. I was able to shadow Dr. Rossi himself and learned that it takes skill to look at an animal and describe and prescribe the best medication needed for treatment.

Dr. Rossi taught me how to draw vaccinations and antibiotics which included understanding the amount of medicine needed to treat the animal; the amount of medicine needed is based on the animals' weight. What was surprising to me is the fact that most of the medications given to animals are the very same medications that are prescribed to humans.

Dr. Rossi and his team of professionals eventually felt comfortable enough to let me interact with the pet owners and collect History and Welfare all by myself.

This experience was definitely hands on! I learned how to roll the animals' veins so the technicians could draw blood; I learned the names of most medications given to dogs as well as their 'generic' names (e.g., the names they could also be referred to). I was also able to have conversations after the appointment with the doctor to explain the medication given, how it is to be used and why it was prescribed.

My desire is to become an exotic veterinarian and I feel that being placed at Riverside Animal Hospital was the best placement for me. I was able to interact with animals ranging from your regular cats and dogs to bearded dragons, possums, and boas. This experience prepared me to escape some of my fears (holding a snake was one of them!) and go in with more knowledge than I would have learned just by working a regular job. Without this internship I would not be 100 percent sure that I wanted to be a veterinarian and now my belief is stronger than it ever will be.

This internship experience provided me with a deeper look into my career and for that I am very thankful to the AnnieRuth Foundation.